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www.health.ri.gov

Immunization Program Advisory

Date: March 22, 2010
To: Pediatric Vaccine Providers
From: Patricia Raymond, Chief, Office of Immunization
Re: **Temporary Suspension of Use of Rotarix**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today announced that providers in the United States should temporarily suspend the use of Rotarix rotavirus vaccine because DNA fragments of porcine circovirus, type I (PCVI) was found in the vaccine. PCVI does not pose any safety or efficacy concerns, and PCVI does not cause illness in humans.

Providers should continue to appropriately store Rotarix vaccine. Providers do not need to re-vaccinate children who have already completed the rotavirus vaccine series with Rotarix.

For children who have not completed the rotavirus vaccine series, providers can order RotaTeq rotavirus vaccine from the Immunization Program. For questions about ordering rotavirus vaccine, contact Paul McKiernan at 222-4639 or paul.mckiernan@health.ri.gov or Mark Francesconi at 222-5988 or mark.francesconi@health.ri.gov

FDA will continue to gather information about the PCV1 components in Rotarix. In four to six weeks, FDA expects to convene an expert advisory committee and make additional recommendations on the use of rotavirus vaccines.

To view FDA's Rotarix Information Page – including information on timing and number of rotavirus vaccine doses needed, visit http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm205585.htm

HEALTH will continue to share updated information as it becomes available.